

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 1ST MARCH 2021 AT 7.00 P.M.

1. PRESENT: Cllr. Walden (Chairman), Cllr. M.D.G. Spurway (Vice-chairman), Cllr. Adamson-Drage, Cllr. J.J. Farrow, the Town Clerk and the Administrative Assistant.

2 Members of the public, 0 representative of the press.

2. APOLOGIES: Cllrs. M. Mynard and S. Sleigh.

3. NOT PRESENT: none.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

CLLRS. FARROW AND SPURWAY EACH DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING MEMBERS OF THE AXMINSTER GUILDHALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS RELATING TO THE GUILDHALL.

CLLR. FARROW DECLARED AN INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION AND A GOVERNOR OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY AND AS A JOINT TENANT OF A TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT AT WOODBURY PARK ALLOTMENTS

CLLR. ADAMSON-DRAGE DECLARED A PECUNIARY INTEREST AS BEING THE SPOUSE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY, AS A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER SKATEPARK STEERING GROUP, AXMINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION AND AS BEING SAFEGUARDING LEAD FOR AXMINSTER YOUTH CLUB.

5. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE: No alterations were put forward.

6. PUBLIC FORUM: A member of the public welcomed the ploughing works undertaken on the section of Lyme Road beyond the derestriction sign. In response to a further question, it was agreed that the Town Council would enquire from the Highway Authority what measures were being taken to recoup the cost of replacing damaged signage from the person who had caused the damage.

The proprietors of a business in Lyme Street raised their concerns regarding the risk posed to their staff while unloading delivery lorries by vehicles forcing being driven past at inappropriate speeds. They sought stronger support from the police and the installation of measures to reduce speed.

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7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - SIGNAGE: Cllr. Walden confirmed that the Town Entrance signs had been included in the discussions held with the Heritage Centre.

8. UPDATE ON SECTION 106 MATTERS: Clarification is being sought regarding the District Council's position as a partner in the skateboard project. Its involvement in providing a site would have benefits in terms of better use of funding.

9. UPDATE ON VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNAGE: following discussion of the dangerous driving/ speeding issues in Lyme Street highlighted in Public Forum, Cllr. Walden proposed that the following apparatus be purchased at the costs quoted by Devon County Council:

- a. 2 battery operated mobile signs.

- b. 4 re-chargeable battery packs.
- c. Sufficient mounting posts to cover sites on Chard Road, Musbury Road, Lyme Road, Crewkerne Road near the incoming 30 m.p.h. sign and Lyme Street.

Cllr. Adamson-Drage seconded the proposal. Agreed.

The signs would be rotated between the sites by the Outdoor Staff as appropriate.

10. UPDATE ON TOWN SIGNAGE: Cllr. Walden had circulated a report on his meeting with a representative from Axminster Heritage setting out the proposed plan of action. He confirmed that the Town Entrance Signs, though not mentioned were to be included. He commended the finger post signs in use in Charmouth and Seaton as being good examples of their type. The Town Clerk will ascertain from the Conservation Officer what permissions would be needed to install such signage.

Cllr. Walden will liaise with the appropriate body regarding signage at the railway station and, at the same time, will follow up initial inquiries made by Cllr. Mynard regarding maintenance of the land between the footpath to the station and the Trafalgar Way.

11. UPDATE ON JUBILEE FIELD: comments received from a member of the public had been passed on to the developer via East Devon District Council and remedial actions had been agreed. The Town Clerk will ask that the correct operation of the original French Drain be checked at the time the new, shallower drain is installed.

12. REVIEW OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICING ARRANGEMENTS: this had not yet taken place. It was agreed that it be held in the Guildhall using appropriate social distancing once the outdoor staff were available.

13. UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: nothing to report.

14. UPDATE ON JUBILEE FOUNTAIN: a response was awaited regarding the disconnection of the electricity supply. All the information required for the planning application was available.

Cllr. Walden sought views on the A board sign that the Waffle House had placed on the blue lias paving surrounding the fountain. The Town Clerk said that there might be objections from those who stand there while queuing for buses. She said there was also the risk that if the sign was knocked off the slabs for any reason it become a hazard to traffic.

15. STREET FURNITURE: The Administrative Assistant reported that no useful response had been forthcoming from the developer regarding the seat and litter bin on Flax Meadow Lane.

Cllr. Walden said that he had someone who had expressed an interest in removing the redundant bus shelter on Chard Road. The Town Clerk will check what the District Council intention had been regarding this shelter.

16. HEALTH AND SAFETY: No matters were raised. The Town Clerk will check that the quarterly meetings for the sub-committee have been diarised.

17. MATTERS OF URGENCY: None.

Cllr. Farrow proposed that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972 the public, (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Cllr. Spurway seconded the proposal.
Agreed

18. QUOTATIONS RECEIVED – Asbestos Removal. Following acceptance of the quote from contractor B a small amount of asbestos had been found at the Cemetery. The contractor had agreed to remove this at no extra cost.

Following discussion regarding the impact on affected tenants of the Council's decision to remove asbestos from allotment sheds, Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Spurway, proposed that Town Council should provide tenants with replacement roofing material. Agreed.

19. QUOTATIONS RECEIVED – Cemetery Chapels. It was agreed that the quotes were so disparate that the advice of a qualified building surveyor should be sought, even though a cost may be involved.

20. QUOTATIONS RECEIVED – Tree Works. The situation regarding Millwey Rise had not yet been clarified by the District Council but they were sending a tree officer to look at the trees.

Following discussion regarding a mature oak on the boundary of the Woodbury Park allotments, Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Farrow, proposed that, in line with previous instances and as part of the Council's environment support policy, if a resident wished crown reduction works to the canopy of a tree which was not deemed by a qualified tree specialist to be in need of such works, then the resident would have to pay for the works and ensure that they were undertaken by a qualified and insured tree surgeon.

21. TENANCY MATTERS: further clarification was still needed regarding the land ownerships at the far end of the North Street site in order to increase the number of plots.

Signed Date